

THE

MONTHLY



GULL

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### SAVING TULE ELK AND OTHER WILDLIFE

The cause of the Tule Elk is getting widespread attention throughout California. Last summer Golden Gate Audubon Society joined many local conservationists in protesting a "reduction of the herd hunt" until an impartial, reliable count could be taken. This was done and 76 elk considered surplus were taken by hunters in the Owens Valley refuge. The Committee for the Preservation of the Tule Elk has stepped up its attacks on this policy and out of the protest and debate have emerged several practical suggestions and ideas.

Your Chairman has read all available releases from the Committee, has consulted spokesmen for the Department of Fish and Game, and more recently interviewed an outstanding independent authority on wildlife management and conservation whose opinions we consider neutral and unbiased.

First, it should be realized that Owens Valley was not in the original Tule Elk range and offers little natural habitat, so that irrigated pastures are necessary to their survival. Any increase of that herd means displacement of cattle. Plans to establish new herds of Tule Elk in the San Luis National Wildlife Refuge in the lower San Joaquin Valley and, eventually in an area within the Pt. Reyes National Seashore, are far more practical and promising. Costly fencing will be required at both sites, though when established, some elk might be permitted greater range.

"Proportionate representation on wildlife boards and commissions for the 96.4% of the public that does not indulge in recreational killing" is another demand of the Tule Elk Committee that has considerable merit. We must note with surprise and admiration that the Committee also persuaded the Los Angeles City Council to cooperate in "implementing" the present refuge!

Press releases on a renewed "Wild Animal Control . . ." program for Alameda and Contra Costa County raised another storm of protest from local conservationists. We immediately contacted the Alameda County agency involved and the federal Division of Wildlife Services furnishing the professional trappers. They emphasized that their trapping was done only in response to specific complaints of predatory animal depredations from ranchers and by request of county and state health authorities. It was claimed that without this service ranchers would go all out

with traps and poisons. The skunks, foxes and some other small predators were taken to secure samples of the incidence of rabies in these counties, which was significant. Concerned Audubon members may request exact figures on this.

Complete extermination of ground squirrels—an apparent objective of other animal control teams in Contra Costa County and elsewhere—might result in extermination of our last Golden Eagles in the same areas, asserts Chris Nelson and his East Bay Regional Park District naturalists. It is feared that loss of this favorite food might drive the eagles to taking poultry, which would insure their destruction! (Your Golden Gate Audubon officers have copies of a recent Department of Fish and Game Wildlife Leaflet on the Golden Eagle, with an added enclosure on eagle protection, in case members should want copies for their hunter or rancher friends.)

Recent TV documentaries on the American wolves and on DDT and other pesticides were graphic, timely and some compensation for so many “lost hours” with the picture tube! Perhaps enough letters on wolf bounties and wolf slaughter by plane would convince our Alaskan friends, through their Governor, to quickly bring these practices to a halt. It's worth a try!

Colorful informative new brochures on the proposed **South San Francisco Bay Wildlife Refuge** are now available—if you can find one. One copy is posted at the Rotary Natural Science Center, Lake Merritt, Oakland. Audubon groups may be asked to contribute toward a second printing in order that all interested citizens may secure copies. The brochure was prepared by the County of Santa Clara Planning Dept., 70 West Hedding St., San Jose, CA 95110 in September. The proposed refuge area contains nesting colonies of two officially designated endangered species—California Clapper Rail and California Least Tern.—PAUL F. COVEL, *Conservation Chairman*.

G.O.O. (The Get Oil Out of Santa Barbara Committee) asked for the help of Golden Gate Audubon Society in watching for the departure of the oil derrick barge from San Francisco Bay. Our alert members were able to help the Committee by making a long distance call to Santa Barbara giving the exact departure time of the oil derrick.

#### UNESCO CONFERENCE ON ENVIRONMENT

The November 23-25 UNESCO Conference on “Man and His Environment” held in San Francisco attracted leading representatives from business, civic, conservation, educational, governmental, military and scientific organizations from the United States and many parts of the world. In the opinion of many, it was the most important conference of its kind ever held in this country.

Population control and how to arrest water, land, air and noise pollution engaged the attention of speakers, panelists and all conferees. All speakers agreed that the crisis was most serious. National Audubon President, Dr. Elvis Stahr, chaired the panel on “The Role of the Private Sector.” Arthur Godfrey was one of the featured speakers at the conference.

Quite a number of the experts felt that the human race has already passed the point of no return and that "doomsday" will arrive by the close of this century. Others felt that the human race can be saved, but that to do this, drastic measures must be taken to control population and environment. Many articulate young people attended. They urged action *now* and they distributed various petitions addressed to President Nixon requesting that the supersonic plane project be discontinued and that birth control information be widely distributed throughout the world.

KQED televised the entire UNESCO Conference. The *Christian Science Monitor* published a series of articles in December on this important international meeting. We should all let our governmental representatives know how we feel about saving our environment.—BOB and VAL DaCOSTA.

GOLDEN GATE AUDUBON SOCIETY now offers a special \$6 membership for high school and college students. This will include subscriptions to *Audubon* magazine and *The Gull*.

#### **JANUARY PROGRAM TO FEATURE NEW OAKLAND MUSEUM**

George Peyton will give a slide talk on the Natural Sciences Division of the new Oakland Museum at our Golden Gate Audubon meeting on **Thursday, January 8**. The program will begin at **7:30 p.m.** in the Rotary Natural Science Center, Lakeside Park, Bellevue and Perkins in Oakland. The new Museum has attracted visitors from all parts of the Bay Area to see the outstanding displays on the ecology and natural history of California.

All Golden Gate members and friends are invited to the no-host dinner at **6:30 p.m.** in Lovely's Buffet, 336 Grand Ave. at Perkins St., one block from the Rotary Science Center.

Mr. Peyton has also planned a *special tour* of the Museum for Golden Gate Audubon on **Saturday, January 10. Meet at 10 a.m.** in the Natural Science Hall, Oakland Museum, 10th and Fallon Sts. (Our tour of the U.C. Lawrence Hall of Science, Berkeley has been postponed.)

#### **SEE "THE EVERGLADES"—JANUARY 19**

William A. Anderson will bring "The Everglades" to Berkeley on **Monday, January 19, at 8:15 p.m.** in the King Junior High School Auditorium. This Audubon Wildlife Film features close-ups of the fascinating inhabitants of cypress swamp, pineland ridge, sea of sawgrass, hardwood hammock and mangrove swamp. The Everglades shelter spoonbill and crocodile, cottonmouth and panther, Painted Bunting and Snowy Egret. It is now evident that the personal involvement of alert citizens is needed to secure the Everglades from irresponsible and despoiling invasion.

Mr. and Mrs. Anderson of McLean, Virginia, are professional movie photographers who have produced many educational films on natural history subjects. They began with a film called *Monarch Butterfly Story* as their entry in an amateur movie club contest. It turned out to be an internationally acclaimed prize-winning film. Subsequently, as a husband and wife team, Bill and Claire Anderson have researched, written, photographed, edited and sound-tracked seventeen classroom films on natural

history distributed by Encyclopedia Britannica Educational Corp. The Andersons have also supplied sequences for documentary television productions including Walt Disney's *True Life Adventures*, National Geographic TV and BBC's *Survival series*. Working with the U. S. Government, Bill directed the "Islands of Green" co-sponsored by the Forest Service and National Audubon Society.

The King Jr. High School is on Rose Street at Grant in Berkeley. Single admission at the door is \$1.50 for anyone not having a season ticket for Audubon Wildlife Films. For students under 18 single admission is \$1. The proceeds support the conservation program of Golden Gate Audubon Society.

### JANUARY FIELD TRIPS

**Saturday, January 17**—Lower Tubbs Island, east of the mouth of the Petaluma River in San Pablo Bay—one of Nature Conservancy's fine projects to save open space and wildlife. Ducks, geese and shorebirds winter here; hawks, owls and smaller land birds are all-year residents. This \$300,000 acquisition needs your support. Please mail contributions marked "Tubbs Island" to The Nature Conservancy, 215 Market St., S. F. CA 94105. U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service and California Dept. of Fish and Game consider protection of the island essential as one of the last remaining bay wintering areas for Canvasbacks on the Pacific Flyway. "Up to 65 other species of migratory birds have been observed in a morning on the island . . . And preservation of the 330 acres of Lower Tubbs Island, it should be noted, will effectively assure that 1,000 acres of State-owned tidelands surrounding the island will remain a natural habitat"—*S.F. Chronicle* editorial. Harold Gilliam wrote an excellent description of the area in the Sunday Chronicle of November 9. From Golden Gate or San Rafael Bridge take Highway 101 North and then Highway 37 (Vallejo-Napa road), cross Petaluma River Bridge and about 4 miles further look for Tolay Creek bridge at Sears Point cut-off. Cross Tolay Creek and immediately turn right into a parking area near a locked gate. Meet in this parking area at **8:45 a.m.** We'll caravan promptly at 9 a.m. on the dirt road and the **gate will be locked behind us.** Bring warm clothing, binoculars, scopes, lunch and a friend who wants to learn more about conservation.—Leader, Mrs. Val DaCosta, 931-5257.

**Wednesday, January 21**, above trip will be repeated. Meet at the gate at **9:30 a.m.** In case of rain the week-day trip will be postponed until February. Co-leaders, Mrs. Vi Homem, 339-1886, and Mrs. Alice Mericourt, 525-7703.

**Saturday, January 31**—a morning trip for beginners, Lake Merritt, Oakland. Ducks, geese and gulls can be studied at close range. Watch for the wintering Barrow's Goldeneye ducks with the Common Goldeneyes and the Redheads with the Canvasback ducks. Meet at **9:30 a.m.** at the Rotary Natural Science Center next to the duck feeding area. Paul Covel, Oakland Park Naturalist and Golden Gate Audubon Conservation Chairman, will assist us.



Areas to visit in January—For ducks, geese and swans: the National and State wildlife refuges after January 11, when hunting season ends. For shorebirds: check nearby marshes and mudflats, wherever man has not spoiled them. Small lakes and beach areas offer excellent opportunities to study wintering gulls. With careful observation, seven or more species of gulls might be found.—MRS. VALERIA G. DaCOSTA, *Field Trips Chairman*.

### **"SPRINGTIME IN THE HIMALAYAS"—DR. GRIFFIN**

Dr. Martin Griffin, Chairman of Audubon Canyon Ranch, will present a slide program on "Springtime in the Himalayas" on **Friday, January 23, 8 p.m.**, in the Oakland Museum Theater as part of the Adventure Club series. The Theater is on Level I, Natural Sciences Division, of the Oakland Museum, 10th and Fallon Sts. Dr. Griffin will also give this slide show at the San Francisco meeting of the Golden Gate Audubon Society on **February 12**.

### **AUDUBON CANYON RANCH**

Last month Canyon Ranch put out its annual appeal for suport. It depends for its existence—for its programs of land acquisition and of conservation and nature education—on our response once a year to this appeal. The big new beautiful South Canyon is fairly priced at \$800 per aere. It brings the area of the ranch to 801 acres. The ranch urgently needs help to raise the balance due on it: over \$150,000.

Please give or pledge what you can to support this effort to enlarge our sanctuary and nature center—JOSHUA BARKIN, *President*.

Audubon Canyon Ranch is deeply grateful to Miss Katherine Geijsbeek, who left a bequest of \$10,000 to our Endowment Fund at the San Francisco Foundation. The income from the bequest will go towards the costs of maintenance and operation.

Helen M. Pratt, who has recorded the nesting success of the Canyon Ranch heronry, reports that there were 55 breeding pairs of Great Blue Herons at the ranch in 1969 and they fledged 110 young. One nest fledged 4 young—a record for the three years of the nesting study. There were 86 breeding pairs of Common Egrets in the heronry and they fledged 90 young. Nesting success for the egrets was about one per breeding pair, the same as 1968. Nesting success for the herons was two young per breeding pair, more than either of the other two years of the study.

### **AUDUBON NATURE TRAINING**

The fall semester wound up with a meeting of the instructors and other volunteers helping with the Audubon Nature Training Program. The purpose was to evaluate the past semester and diseuss plans for next spring. The new Lafayette course was such an outstanding success that a repeat has been requested in the spring. Also Mt. Diablo School District has requested a fifteen-hour course, for which college credit will be given. Instruetors for the resource volunteer and preschool eourses will again give those courses. We plan an extension of the workshop program to give group leaders more supervised experience. Folowing the "mobile"

trend set in Lafayette, we hope increasingly to take the program to the school setting, so that it may be related more specifically to the immediate environment.

Responding to our request in *The Gull*, Virginia Cameron has volunteered to provide a much-needed service as part-time secretary. The National Audubon Society's Western Regional office in Sacramento will now handle mailings for Audubon Nature Training. This is a real contribution, as the "graduates" who form a resource pool now number 1,000. We are very appreciative of National Audubon's interest in the program and their active cooperation.

### MEMORIAL GIFTS

Gifts of remembrance were made to **Audubon Nature Training Program:**

<i>In Memory of</i>	<i>Gift of</i>
Phyllis Zweigart .....	Paul and Marion Covel
H. Stephen Chase .....	Mrs. Edna B. Curtner
Mrs. Junea Kelly .....	Natalie Mestechin

Gifts of remembrance were made to **Audubon Canyon Ranch:**

<i>In Memory of</i>	<i>Gift of</i>
Phyllis Zweigart .....	Ethel E. Richardson
Dr. Joy Bishop Blum .....	Marge J. Aeckeret
Mrs. Karen Asp .....	Blanehe Vranina
Mary Elizabeth Ray .....	William Monheit
Mrs. Junea Kelly .....	Mrs. Edward Hohfeld

—DR. ALBERT BOLES, *Sanctuary & Memorial Fund Chairman*

Boy Scout Troop 254 made a special contribution to Audubon Canyon Ranch *in honor of* Dr. Albert Boles.

### THE "600 CLUB"

Roger Tory Peterson is responsible for promoting the Life List of Birds and Stuart Keith of the American Museum of Natural History for designating those who have succeeded in seeing and recording 600 or more full species of birds in North America as members of the "600 Club". Since Keith is sent to a number of foreign lands to study birds for the A.M.N.H. and is away for several months at a time, I have been asked to bring the membership list up to date.

It must always be remembered that the 600 or more species of birds recorded are found within the area specified by the 1957 *Check-list of the American Ornithologists' Union*, which includes all of the United States (including Alaska), all of Canada, Greenland, Bermuda, and Baja California. Mexico (except Baja California) is *not* included. The 600 list includes a number of prominent ornithologists as well as many well-known amateurs. We believe that this club and those striving to see more birds have a tremendous influence toward the study and protection of our wildlife.—EARLE R. GREENE, 1600 West Fifth St., Oxnard, CA 93030.

**OBSERVATIONS CALENDAR**

- Nov. 9—*Tree Sparrow*, Chileno Valley Rd., Marin Co.—Bill Pursell.  
Nov. 10—*Eastern Phoebe* & *Ferruginous Hawk*, same place—Bill Pursell.  
Nov. 11—*Ferruginous Hawk*, Two Rock Rd. to Bodega—Val DaCosta & Bill Pursell. At Limantour, Pt Reyes Seashore: *Red Phalarope*—John Smail.  
Nov. 13—*Parula Warbler*, Rodeo Lagoon—Ann Follis & Bud Fry. *Barrow's Goldeneye*, Lake Merritt—Gertrude Bialos.  
mid-November—*Northern Waterthrush*, S.F. Cliff House marsh—Bob Sutherland  
Nov. 20—*Hooded Merganser* & 6 *Barrow's Goldeneye*, Lake Merritt. On Alameda South Shore, 2 *Common Terns* with Forster's—Bill Pursell.  
Nov. 21—Female *Hooded Merganser*, Jewel Lake, Tilden Park—Garth Alton and C. B. Maynard.  
Nov. 23—*Hooded Merganser* pair, San Leandro Reservoir—Garth Alton.  
Nov. 23—*Northern Shrike*, Bodega Bay area—Hans Johansen.  
Nov. 24—*Northern Waterthrush*, Tomales Bay area—Bill Pursell.  
Nov. 25—*Lincoln's Sparrow*, Coyote Hills Park—Bill Pursell. More than 500 White Pelicans south of Dumbarton Bridge.  
Dec. 2—Male *Oldsquaw*, and *Barrow's Goldeneye*, Bolinas Lagoon—Bud Fry. *Hooded Mergansers* (19), Corte Madera lagoons—Alice Higgins and Bud Fry.  
Dec. 4—*Rock Sandpipers* & *Fulmars*, Bodega Head—Val DaCosta & John Yrizarry.  
Dec. 6—*Rock Sandpipers*, *Fulmars*, *Red Phalarope*, Bodega—GGAS field trip led by Larry Curl.  
Dec. 7—3 *Oldsquaws* (2 male, 1 female), Bolinas Lagoon—Bill Pursell & Aubrey Burns.



Barrow's  
and Common  
Goldeneye on  
Lake Merritt.

Photo by  
V. & G. Homem



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JANUARY

## GOLDEN GATE AUDUBON SOCIETY, INC.

Established January 25, 1917 A Branch of the National Audubon Society since 1948

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Membership Secretary	Mrs. Zella Cushman	3156 Gough, San Francisco 94123	673-5310
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Wildlife Film Chairman	Mrs. Frances Ellen Fallgatter	406 El Cerrito, Piedmont 94611	655-9582
Conservation Chairman	Paul F. Covel	2860 Delaware St., Oakland 94602	536-4120
Canyon Ranch Film Crmn.	Mrs. Bonnie Smith	555 Dewey Blvd., San Francisco 94116	681-7635

Send address changes to Membership Secretary promptly; Post Office does not forward THE GULL. Monthly meetings second Thursday 7:30 p.m. Joint membership, Local & National \$10 per yer, includes AUDUBON MAGAZINE and THE GULL. Subscription to THE GULL separately \$2 per year.

The *Gull* deadline is the first of the month for the following month.